

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

April 14, 2004 LR 400

by the Nebraska Supreme Court and not by any veiled threats, if that's what's...what are supposed to be contained in this thing called a resolution. Because if I find out that they're violating the law, then I'm going to see if action can be taken against them. They know what they swore to do when they took that position. They know they are a constitutional body, and no matter what the Chairman of the Transportation Committee says or those who may have worked in conjunction with him to come up with something like this, they are not to violate the law. So when it suggests how they're supposed to conduct themselves,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...if they're going to say anything they should have said, as directed by law, for example. In "whereas" number 12: "The Legislature intends that the Public Service Commission preserve and promote universal service in all telecommunications markets." If they're going to say that, say as directed by law. They shouldn't say the Legislature intends. The Legislature expects. We expect them to do their job in compliance with the law, and legislative intent expressed in a resolution is so much puffery and piffle. Now I have a motion up there and I think my motion has to be dealt with before any other business can come ahead of it. That's my belief, but I may be wrong. We'll see how things pan out. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. You've heard the opening on the bracket motion till April 15. Those wishing to speak, Senator Beutler, followed by Senator Smith and others.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature, Senator Chambers has made the central point and I really do think that that is what this discussion should be about. It's about legal process, legislative process, and how we do our business and what message we give to agencies if we began the precedent of doing what is proposed to you today. This is not about the telecommunication industry versus LES or the public utilities. If it were, I would do my best to defend LES. They're a great utility. They're wonderfully managed. They're progressive in the community. They want to help our community